Drug Smuggling in Assam

6976. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cases of drug smuggling detected in Assam during each of the last three years and the details of the narcoticd rugs seized;

(b) the number of prosecutions launched in this regard and the outcome of such cases; and

(c) the details of the disposal of seized drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Widening of Guwahati–Tezpur Section of National Highway

6977. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen and develop the Guwahati–Tezpur section of National highway to ease the problem of traffic congestion; and

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be sanctioned for the purpose during the year 1992–93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). there are two alternative National highway routes between Guwahati and Tezpur – one via Nagaon and other via Baihata Charali. Both these routes are two–lane wide. At present there is no proposal to widen these routes. Other development works on these routes will be taken up during 1992–93 as per provisions in the 8th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.

Export Processing Zone, Visakhapatnam

6978. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the project cost of the Visakhapatnam Export Processing zone;

(b) the progress made so far for setting up of the above zone; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The capital cost on account of land and development of th first phase of the zone is estimated to be Rs. 17.00 crores approx.

(b) An amount of Rs. 3.34 crores has been released towards the cost of land and development of requisite infrastructure. Work on th boundary wall, internal roads drainage etc. is in progress.

(c) The basic internal infrastructure of the zone is likely to be completed in the current financial year, subject to availability of funds.

Exodus of Officers from Navy

6979. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
SHRI S.B. THORAT:
SHRI SANAT KUAMR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been mass exodus of officers from the Navy;

(b) if so, the number of persons who left the naval service from technical and non-technical sides during 1991-92;

(c) whether the Government have made any study into the causes of such exodus;

(d) if so, the result thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to check it; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (e). Naval officers are permitted to seek premature retirement on the following grounds:-

(i) Supersession

(ii) Compassionate reasons

(iii) Permanent Low Medical Category

(iv) Absorption in the Public Sector/ Re-settlement in civil life within a period of 2 years from the date of normal retirement.

All cases of premature retirement are approved by the Govt on the recommendations of the Chef of Naval Staff subjects to their fulfilling the laid down guidelines /criteria and after keeping the Navy's manpower requirements in mind.

The number of Technical and non-Technical officers upto the rank of Captain/Commodore who took prematue retirement during the year 1991-92 is as follows:-

Technical Branches – 33

Non-Technical Branches – 64

These figures are lower than the corresponding figures for the previous financial year (1990-91).

Increase in Road Tax in Delhi

6980. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road tax in Delhi has been raised; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The Delhi Administration have revised road tax in Delhi w.e.f. 1.4.1992. The revision has been necessitated due to increase in the cost of maintenance of roads and collection charges.

Export of Silk and Silk Garments

6981. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of silk and silk garments exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a great demand for Indian Silk garments in the international market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of silk and silk garments?